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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AmEmbassy, Guatemala — 306 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON — DATE: October 13, 1954

REF F800001-1631

DEC 1954

OCT 14 1954

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.	OCR-2 POL-6 EL-2 EUR/E-1 P-1
	REC'D 10/16	INFO OTHER	C/A-7 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 AIR-3

SUBJECT: Extradition of Major Jaime ROSENBERG and Other Guatemalans Wanted for Crimes under Previous Regime.

US/A+10

Following an initial wave of press and public interest in the provisional arrest of Major Jaime ROSENBERG in Mexico on the basis of a Guatemalan extradition request, Guatemalan opinion appears to have become pessimistic about the chances of actually obtaining his return and that of others accused of atrocities and common crimes under the previous regime.

In addition to a good deal of pessimistic conversation in this sense, there has also been press comment such as an article in El Universal of October 10 which said in effect that there was no chance that Rosenberg and the others would be handed over to Guatemala because political considerations were involved. La Hora Dominical of October 10 also pointed out that the precedents were not favorable to effecting the extraditions from Mexico because in 1907 President Manuel ESTRADA Cabrera, then dictator of Guatemala, refused a Mexican request for the extradition of certain persons who had assassinated General BARILLAS, a former Guatemalan President, in the middle of Mexico City.

An article in the New York Times by Sidney GRUSON has also come to the attention of the Embassy but has not been reproduced in the local press. It reviews the Mexican extradition procedure and suggests that with the right of appeal extradition cases in Mexico can be dragged out for as many as four years.

ACTION REQUESTED: In view of the desire of the present Guatemalan Government to bring at least the most prominent officials of the Arbenz regime accused of atrocities to justice, it would be useful to learn from the Embassy in Mexico or the Department (1) what the Guatemalan Government might do to expedite the extradition in addition to presenting its case promptly; (2) how long it is likely to take to obtain a final decision in Mexico on the extradition requests.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 9/14/79
PER BGrove OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 7900252 Schlesinger

For the Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.:
John Calvin Hill, Jr.
Second Secretary

cc: AmEmbassy, Mexico
AmEmbassy, El Salvador

JCHill:bk
REPORTER

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